available for the treatment of tuberculosis patients;

(b) the number of people suffering from tuberculosis according to the survey conducted so far in each State;

(c) whether the number of Tuberculosis patients are increasing due to non-availability of proper treatment;

(d) whether the prices of medicines required for the treatment of this disease have increased considerably as a result of which it has become difficult for the poor to take the treatment;

(e) whether Union Government propose to provide financial assistance to State Governments keeping in view the spreading of this infectious disease; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) 378 District Tuberculosis Centres have been established so far and about 47,000 T. B. beds are available in the country.

(b) Tuberculosis is not a notifiable disease. As such, precise and reliable data regarding actual number of persons suffering from tuberculosis, Statewise are not available. However, on the basis of the findings of a national sample survey conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research in 1955—58 and subsequent limited surveys conducted in different parts of the country, it is estimated that nearly 1.5% of the total population is suffering from radiologically active T. B. disease of the lung, of which nearly 1/4th i.e. 0.4% are sputum postive or infectious.

(c) There is no evidence to suggest that the number of tuberculosis patients is increasing.

(d) The main emphasis under the National T. B. Control Programme is on detection of as large a number of T. B. patients as possible and treating them effectively. Anti-TB drugs are supplied to all District T. B. Centres/ Peripheral Health Institutions and T. B. Clinics as per their requirement for free treatment of all diagnosed T. B. patients irrespective of cost of these drugs.

(e) and (f) As per the existing pattern of assistance of the Programme, essential anti-TB drugs, materials/ equipments are supplied to the States/ UTs. There is no provision for cash assistance under the National T. B. Control Programme.

System of Carrying Night Soil

3342. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the system of carrying night soil on head is still prevalent in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to abolish this system through a phased programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir. It is proposed to abolish manual handling of night soil and rehabilitate the liberated scavengers within a period of five Years.

(c) Centrally Sponsored Scheme for liberation of Scavengers is being implemented with the twin objective of (a) converting the existing household/community dry latrines into water borne latrines in selected medium and small towns and (b) rehabilitation of scavengers in the alternative dignified employment/occupations.

Increase in Allocation to Encourage Literacy

3343. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the percentage of amount to be spent on education to encourage the literacy programme ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) Universalisation of elementary education, including non-formal education and the National Literacy Mission which aims at imparting functional literacy to 80 million adult illiterates in the 15—35 age group form an integral part of a larger programme for eradication of illiteracy in the country. Within the overall size of resources, the allocation for adult education and elementary education has continuously increased, particularly after the adoption of the National Policy on Education, 1986 and Launching of the National Literacy Mission in May, 88. As against the Annual Plan allocation of Rs. 151.12 crores for adult education and Rs. 843.15 crores for elementary education during 1990-91 for the central and the state sectors taken together, the proposed/outlay for adult education and elementary education for 1991-92 is of the order of Rs. 178.75 crores and Rs. 1036.43 crores, respectively.

[*English*]

Free and Compulsory Education to Children

3344. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred by Union and State Governments during Seventh Five Year Plan to implement the 'Operation Blackboard' programme in the country;

(b) whether drop out rate in primary schools is very high in the country and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of drop out rate for the last three years, State-wise ; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to check drop out rate ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) An